

## SAVE THESE DATES

**Community Council Meetings.** Board of Directors meeting every 3rd Monday, 6 pm. HP Community Center. Contact HPCC: PO Box 592, Lyle, WA 98635 or email [highprairiebarb@gmail.com](mailto:highprairiebarb@gmail.com)

**Needlers** Mondays, at 10:30 a.m. Call 509-310-8456 for more information.

**Fire Volunteers.** 1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m.

**Fire Commissioner Meeting.** 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. P.O. Box 853, Lyle, WA 98635 or email [kcfpd14@gmail.com](mailto:kcfpd14@gmail.com)

Visit the community website ([www.highprairie.us](http://www.highprairie.us)) for additional scheduled events and meetings.

### THE HIGH PRAIRIAN

"All the news that's print to fit"



## STAY IN THE LOOP!

### EMAIL:

Put your name on the HP info list by emailing [highprairiebarb@gmail.com](mailto:highprairiebarb@gmail.com)

### WEBSITE:

Check us out at [www.highprairie.us](http://www.highprairie.us)  
Calendar, blog, High Prairian, history, and lots more!

### FACEBOOK:

Stay up to date with community happenings and join the discussion:

[www.facebook.com/groups/180735785338230/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/180735785338230/)

Don't forget to "like" the page.

(We can't invite you if we don't know how to reach you!)

## LONG RUN AS EDITOR COMES TO AN END

Gwen Berry

This is my last issue as editor of the High Prairian. The end of the current year is approaching fast. The new year will arrive soon, full of possibility and change. It's a perfect time for me to step down and invite others who may be interested to take up the reins in 2026.

The High Prairian newsletter started regular, quarterly publication in October 2001, though according to a June 2011 article by Doug Taylor, "The paper was started several years earlier. It had several publishers and editors and was printed when required. It was even suggested that we call it the High Prairie Hiccup at one time."

Doug and Dona Taylor shepherded the High Prairian, as the News Editors, from the October 2001 issue through the June 2011 issue. A group of volunteers would get together a few weeks before each issue to bounce around ideas for articles and other content and to set a submissions deadline. Content also came in from others in the community. Doug was the collection point and handled everyone's contributions. He'd send everything to Cindy Henschell, who (as she still does today) organized and formatted it all into the warm-hearted community newsletter it was. At that time the Klickitat County Economic Development Agency made all the copies and paid the postage to mail our newsletter. By 2011 we were mailing out around 1200 copies every quarter. We had folding parties where we all gathered to fold and tape the newsletters and put a mailing label on each one.

Doug and Dona Taylor retired from The High Prairian in June 2011, and I stepped in to act as the "collection point" temporarily. The Economic Development Council ended their financial support for community newsletters at the end of the same year. The HPCC (with a large donation from Rick and Rachel Carlson) paid for mailing one final issue in 2012. After that, the newsletter's future was uncertain.

In order to continue the High Prairian, it was decided to change it to a mostly electronic format (blog and PDF), with the option of paid subscriptions for those who still wanted printed-and-mailed copies. I agreed to officially become the Editor, and Cindy designed a fresh new look for the newsletter. The transition was a success!

I've been the Editor for 14 years now, since the summer of 2011. During that time, the High Prairie community has evolved and gone through many changes, and The High Prairian has evolved alongside those changes. With experience, I've grown in my role, and I've learned a lot. I'm proud of the support the High Prairian has given to the community, and I'm always pleased when I hear back from members of the community that they've enjoyed the newsletter. I want to thank everyone who has contributed content to the High Prairian over the years. Your contributions have kept the newsletter interesting and relevant.

I'm also proud of what a high-quality, classy publication the High Prairian is. Much of that is due directly to the skills and attention of Cindy Henschell. I send her a miscellaneous collection of articles/poems/recipes/photos/etc., and I get back a beautifully organized, professionally formatted Publication every time. (She puts up with my perfectionist proof-reading, too.)

I'm hoping that one or more of you will be inspired to bring your own style and imagination to the High Prairian as it transitions once again. I look forward to seeing where it goes in the future. Feel free to contact me ([pgwenberry@hotmail.com](mailto:pgwenberry@hotmail.com)) or Cindy ([henschell@cascadiagraphics.com](http://cascadiagraphics.com)) for more information.

And please, everybody -- enjoy the stories, tips, poems, photos in all our past issues. It's always a fascinating look into High Prairie life. Go to <https://www.highprairie.us/>. Hover the cursor over the second tab from the left (The High Prairian), then hover over Archived News (lower in the column). From there move the cursor to the list on the right and scroll through all the archived issues until you click on the one you want to read. They go clear back to October 2001.

## The High Prairian

Publisher: High Prairie Community Council

Editor: Gwen Berry

Layout: Cindy Henschell

*Serving the Community of High Prairie,  
Klickitat County, Washington*

Published 4 times a year (or as often as  
needed)

*The High Prairian can be viewed or  
downloaded for free on  
the High Prairie website:*

<http://www.highprairie.us>

## THE NEW HIGH PRAIRIAN LAUNCHES IN January 2026

Cindy Henschell

Sadly, we are losing our Editor but this might be a time to change things up a bit. We have come a long way (25 years) and have changed our look only a few times.



*The revised masthead. 2025*

The real opportunity arrived when we converted the publishing to digital. We gave people a choice to download a printable PDF or read online, on the High Prairie website. However, producing a "print to fit" PDF as well as relatively straightforward code for the website proved to be more time-consuming than we planned. According to the website statistics, only a few people choose to go to the website. With this revelation I have decided to discontinue the HTML version of the High Prairian with this edition and concentrate on making the PDF attractive and, most of all, screen readable as well as printable.

This change will mean that there will be a few cosmetic changes to the publication. So stand by as we unveil the New High Prairian in 2026.

## HIGH PRAIRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Erin Hartford, Chair, HPCC

As winter settles in, the High Prairie Community Council (HPCC) is closing out a busy and successful season with gratitude and momentum. From infrastructure upgrades to community gatherings, our shared efforts continue to strengthen the heart of High Prairie.

### Upcoming Event

Christmas Brunch – Saturday, December 6th at 10 AM

Join us at the Community Center for a cozy holiday brunch filled with good food, laughter, and neighborly cheer. All ages welcome—bring your appetite and holiday spirit!

### Infrastructure & Grant Progress

Thanks to a successful grant and strong volunteer support, our facility upgrades are well underway and grant facilitation is keeping us busy!

- New commercial dishwasher installed and ready for action
- Green Flame commercial range now in place—perfect for community meals
- Kitchen electrical upgrades completed for safety and expanded capacity
- 48K generator project as well as upgraded HVAC implementation is in full swing—

ensuring temperature control and backup power for emergencies and events

These improvements will serve our community for years to come, especially during winter storms and high-demand gatherings. Stay tuned for more updates on the grant and future plans—we're just getting started.

### Busy Season Highlights

This year's busy season brought energy, connection and effective fundraising to High Prairie:

- Bingo nights filled the hall with laughter and friendly competition
- Farmers Market showcased local produce, crafts, and community pride
- Firehouse Sales and Dumpster Days were a huge success—thank you to all who donated, volunteered, and shopped!

### Stay Engaged

HPCC continues to advocate for safety improvements, community resilience, and transparent leadership. If you have ideas, concerns, or want to get involved, we welcome your voice.

Let's keep building something amazing—together.

## SPRING CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

Barbara Parrish

(Editor's note: This article got left out of the previous newsletter. The thank-you's may be late, but the workers' efforts are appreciated just as much.)

Many thanks to all who came out on Saturday, May 24, 2025 to help with the yearly clean up of the Hartland Cemetery. 25 helpers were there including 8 members of the Yakima Indian Nation. They came from both Oregon and Washington – Toppenish, WA, Clackamas, OR, and Eugene, OR. The cemetery has never looked so nice – just in time for Memorial Day.

Special thanks to Jesse Schneider who helped get all graves on the "Find-a-Grave" program. She also entered the GPS coordinates for each grave.

Thanks Again,

Cemetery Board

## TRIAL BY FIRE

Tatiana Taylor with contributions by Doug Taylor

High Prairie holds a special place in my heart. I grew up on Amery's farm (Mom's side) riding my horse across hay fields, while Dad's side meant Grandma Dona's legendary biscuits and gravy and laughing at the "Hamster Dance" video with Grandpa Doug.

Yep, I won the grandparent jackpot, both sets living a mile down the road from each other.

After years away from High Prairie, my heartache intensified, and my fiancé, Cody, suggested we move back to help care for Grandpa Doug. I joked with Grandpa that we "must be related" since we share a love of good food and stories, making me his favorite granddaughter (I'm his only granddaughter). We had grand dreams: raising quail or causing havoc in the community garden.

Then came our trial by fire.

Before I could quit my job, Grandpa landed in the hospital with an infected ankle, spending months in rehab. Cody and I started moving to High Prairie anyway, hopeful we'd be there for Grandpa's homecoming. The discharge date changed daily. One memorable "final" day, they realized his wound vacuum needed replacement; but it was promptly lost in the mail. Assured it would be another week, I raced to Portland to help move. The next day, two hours away, I got the call an hour before closing: "What time are you picking him up?"

Dad and I collected Grandpa the next morning. They attached a wound pump (incorrectly, we'd learn in three days) and home we went, scrambling to learn wound care and medications while Cody finished moving.

Two days after Cody's final Portland moving trip and only nine days after Grandpa came home, the Burdoin Fire started.

Cody (the smart one) packed evacuation bags while Dad and I assured him he was being dramatic (talk about egg on your face). Ominously, as the fire jumped the Klickitat River, Grandpa's pain intensified, and we evacuated him to the Goldendale hospital.

The chaos intensified, too: my aunt and uncle (visiting from Illinois) met me at the hospital so I could rush back to evacuate Dad's cattle. That evening I returned covered in smoke, ash, and cow poop to collect Grandpa for the whole family to spend a sleepless night at "Hotel Taylor".

By morning, out of pain meds, we returned Grandpa to the Goldendale hospital. After calling nine hospitals, only Harbor View in Seattle would take him. Transport was tricky -- it was late, we were exhausted, and Grandpa's mouse-infested Forester was questionable. A nurse tipped me off to airlift insurance. Grandpa got his helicopter ride!

The doctor warned that Seattle would send him straight home, so we didn't follow "Grandpa's Chopper". When we couldn't reach the hospital the next day, Mom and I drove up, staying at a cheap option we lovingly called "Scary House".

Grandpa and I spent three weeks in the trauma hospital. At 91, facing infection, pain, and setbacks, Grandpa Doug showed me what "true grit" means. He fought infection while retaining his humor and storytelling, charming each medical professional. His toughness and determination reflect High Prairie's own values, and I am honored to witness his legacy.

By August, Grandpa returned to rehab for physical therapy. I researched caregivers, finding that High Prairie's rural nature complicated each solution. By fall, Grandpa chose to stay where he receives 24/7 care. Dad and I bring him home for visits to see Tom cat and his view.

Cody and I moved again (our fourth? fifth?). On our last storage trip, I dislocated both my knee and ankle. Chaos wasn't finished!

Amidst the smoke, fire, and chaos, High Prairie revealed her true nature. Sunsets and sunrises offered jaw-dropping pinks, vibrant oranges, and nostalgic blues. Wind carved out elegant cloud pockets, drenching the landscape in dappled sunshine. We spotted bears and nesting red-tailed hawks, and witnessed Grandpa Doug's daffodils and fall crocuses bloom in bumper crops.

More stunning than nature was the community. Neighbors offered help, knowledge, and stories. Innumerable folks offered their time, labor, and energy -- kindness I'll never be able to fully repay. When smoke clouded the future (both literal and figurative), High Prairie's people revealed what Grandpa Doug and Grandma Dona worked to help build: a deeply strong and kind community. I'm grateful to be home, surrounded by good people, hoping to continue their legacy of community.

## HP HISTORY NOW AVAILABLE AT COMMUNITY CENTER

Barbara Parrish

At the December 1, 2002 meeting of the High Prairie Historical Society, a motion was made and carried to house all historical information in one central spot. At that time, there was no Community Center. As years went by and the Society members lost interest, it was decided to disband the group. The question -- what to do with the nearly \$1,500.00 in the bank account?

In 2010, when the Community Center was built, it became the most obvious place to collect and display the history information. Out of those Historical Society funds, almost \$1,000.00 was donated to High Prairie Community Council for file cabinets. When COVID hit, the materials could not be rescued, so it wasn't until a couple of years ago that the materials came to the Community Center. We now have several drawers in the two new file cabinets to centrally store our history.

Anyone with historical information, who would like to have it stored at the Community Center, please contact Barbara Parrish, 509-281-0933. Anyone who would like to schedule a time for viewing our history files, also contact Barbara Parrish.



## High Prairie School

Submitted by Gary Wilson

This is from a small black and white photo, upscaled and colorized using Gemini AI, of school at High Prairie probably about 1913. I believe that is my grandmother, Helen Hylton (b. 1903), on the left with arms folded.



# Fire Lines

Tom McMakin

**YIKES! That was too close!** The Burdoin Fire that erupted in mid-July meant our greater High Prairie area and community directly experienced the threat and felt deeply the potential personal impacts of a real, destructive fire.

We were lucky... and fortunate... considering the roll of Ma Nature's wildfire dice. Both of our regional, destructive fire incidents, the Burdoin Fire and our neighbors' Rowena Fire, were firestorm events—emphasis on \*storm\* because the weather conditions drove the physics of fire, accelerating the spread of flame fronts through those communities. It is likely that we will see remnants (isolated smoking/burning) in areas inside the blackened borders of these incidents into 2026.

The best 'recalled' estimate I could summon of when the last wildfire threat in our area happened was about 45 years ago. At that time, there were maybe 20 occupied residential homes on the whole of the High Prairie area. The last evacuation order, reaching only Level 2, was 12 years ago.

With our recent Wildfire and Evacuation incident in mind, here are some observations regarding Wildfire facts and factors.

**EVACUATION** – Distressing, and the pinnacle of helplessness! The intensity and duration for us on High Prairie with this event was a whole new, deeply unsettling week of worry and expense! It may have seemed excessive to some, however—it is critical to understand that life safety in an extremely dynamic fire event is an uncompromisable principle for all concerned. The Burdoin Fire firestorm directly affected 13,000 acres and, in places, windblown fire brands and embers started new fires in unexpected areas.

Evacuation is one consideration that should be part of a comprehensive Disaster Emergency preparedness plan. Having supplies, transportation, and shelter preplanned and an action plan of prearranged responses to possible emergency events is prudent and doable right now. Think back to last summer's Level 2 or 3 Evacuation experience and make some notes on what worked or what caused extra worry or distress. Retool and expand on how to make the process work effectively and seamlessly in the future by creating a checklist to accomplish those things. Here's an online resource that can help:

## Evacuation, Communication and Emergency Supply Checklists

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/wui/outreach/wildfire-evacuation.html>

- Scroll down to section titled, "Outreach content to share with your community"
- Under "Create a Wildfire Evacuation Plan," find download links for 3 checklists

There is no 'One Size Fits All' comprehensive Disaster Emergency preparedness plan recipe that will solve your individual situations. There is a wealth of information with perspectives, guidelines and checklists to reference for your consideration. Only you can assemble the pieces to best address your safety and survival puzzles. **You can do this!**

**FIRE** – In a woodstove or campfire, the elements of the Fire Triangle (Fuel (kindling/sticks/branches/logs)/Heat/Oxygen) interact in a relatively controlled environment. We're all familiar with watching a piece of newspaper combust at 451°F/223°C, when used to initiate the chain reaction of fire in our woodstove. When you blow on it, it burns faster and hotter due to the 'extra' oxygen, causing the other kindling pieces nearby to begin combustion more quickly to a desired optimal temperature range of 300-550°F/150-300°C in a draft-controlled stove.

In an \*uncontrolled\* combustion environment, WILDFIRE adds its own 'triangle' (Fuel (grasses/shrubs/brush/trees)/Weather/Topography). Add human structures and property in the WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) such as we live in here and you get the dynamic, effective, efficient and truly devastating event we call 'Wildfire'! Burning light fuels like long grasses can generate temperatures approaching

1500°F with flame fronts reaching to 15' high, driving smoke so dense it limits vision to the front edge of a car's front hood ... while moving at 20 miles per hour and throwing burning embers as far as ½ mile ahead of the flame front. These conditions are the reason you see oaks and pines scorched so far above



the burned away grasses and shrubs! This also illustrates the reason for the duration and enforcement of our area evacuation!

Refer to my companion article on the Firewise and Ready, Set, Go programs for ways to prepare your property and yourself for future wildfire emergencies.



Photo: Mike Mahaffa, Garry Oak in Fall - Their work is done



Tom McMakin

The Firewise & Ready, Set, Go! programs are excellent resource foundations for understanding fire safety principles, defining and planning any mitigation work, and making evacuation 'Be Prepared!' efforts. Check out the links below for more detailed information.

At its core, Firewise efforts are focused on Fuels. It is the one thing we can work with to protect ourselves and our properties from devastating harm and loss! Firewise concepts are keys to safety and fire mitigation by keeping flames and blown embers from contacting your structures and other property and kindling fire starts with those contacts.

## TO-DO LIST – URGENT!

**Get these done now or by December 25!**

All pruning, complete removal, or FireWise fire ladder fuel trimming (8-10' up from the ground, not more than 1/3 of the tree's height), particularly pine trees close to all homes and structures... then out to a 200' perimeter boundary as a fire fuels buffer. This is not 'clear cutting!' It is selectively cleaning up fire-friendly forest debris and removing problem trees for your protection plan.

Following your pruning in the next few weeks, haul all the trimmings well away from any healthy trees into an area for chipping or burning as part of later spring (mid-April) vegetation clean up/disposal.

Doing this work in the time frame from November into early January interrupts pine bark beetle reproductive patterns; provides for pine tree natural wound healing for happy, healthy pines; and eases the task of keeping your home safely FireWise.

Remember, Ips and other boring bark beetles are still with us! Read these articles for more about the problem:

<https://www.highprairie.us/five-spined-ips-still-here-and-causing-trouble/>

<https://washingtonstatestandard.com/2024/05/16/beetles-killing-more-trees-in-washington-likely-due-to-drought/>

## FireWise-To-Do List-Survey & Planning

**(FireWise zones 0' to 5' / 5' to 30' / 30' to 200')**

In the 0' to 5' zone (especially since all the oaks and shrubs are bare right now)

- Walk around your house, other buildings and property
- Inspect them from roof peak to the ground, taking note of debris and leaf litter in gutters, valleys and other nooks and crannies. These need to be safely cleared for winter rain and

snow and rechecked in the spring before fire season.

- From the foundation at ground level, identify all natural litter or vegetation needing clean up or maintenance and any firewood or other items that would be more safely stored away from structures out 30'.

In the 5' to 30' to 200' zones (with the grasses matted and bushes and trees bare of leaves)

- Identify for spring and summer work any clear-up trimming or removal that would reduce fire from traveling to a structure.
- Develop your maintenance plan for mowing or landscape work to keep these areas safe from windborne embers or fire running on the ground.

Attending to these tasks now will make accomplishing the work and maintaining the safety of your property throughout the coming 2026 fire season simple and easy!

## Resources:

I will continue to be the contact person for the Firewise and Ready, Set, Go! program efforts for all residents on High Prairie and KCFPD 14, as well as any other interested communities or individuals. I can answer questions and get you connected with the resources we have available as a recognized Firewise Community since 2016. If you would like to participate, present information or assist in planning, participating in or becoming more involved in the Firewise effort on High Prairie... please contact me:

**Contact me, Tom McMakin**, by email at [firewise.onhighprairie@gmail.com](mailto:firewise.onhighprairie@gmail.com) or by phone message by calling 509-365-2786. Please – if I don't get back to you... try sending another email or calling with another message!

## Online resources:

>Firewise – <https://www.nfpa.org/en/Education-and-Research/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire> or <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/wildfire>

>Ready, Set, Go! – <https://www.iafc.org/docs/default-source/pdf/rsg-eag.pdf>

>Evacuation, Communication Plan, and Emergency Supply Checklists <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/wui/outreach/wildfire-evacuation.html>

- Scroll down to section titled, "Outreach content to share with your community"
- Under "Create a Wildfire Evacuation Plan," find download links for 3 checklists



Photo: Robert Biscardi

## WINTER SOLSTICE — SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

Gwen Berry

The Winter Solstice marks the longest night and the shortest day of the year. In cold December, the dark seems to be winning – but not for long. The Solstice is the turning point. Now the nights will grow shorter and the days grow longer, until the Summer Solstice in June when the cycle begins again.

The changing seasons are a result of our planet's yearly trip around the sun. The earth is on a permanent tilt, so when it's at one end of its orbit the northern hemisphere is tilted toward the sun. It is summer and we see the bright sun riding high in our sky. At the other end, the northern hemisphere tilts away from the sun. We have winter, and the pale sun's arc is low in the southern sky. At Winter Solstice, we are at our farthest point from the sun, and as the earth continues its orbit the days will slowly get longer and the sun will begin to creep back up the sky.

For most of us, the Winter Solstice goes by without much notice. However, to those whose lives were tied to the turning of the seasons, it was a much more significant event.

"The approaching winter solstice was once a frightening time for ancient people, especially those who lived in places like northern Europe. They did not have a scientific explanation for the shorter days and longer nights. They were afraid that the sun was losing its power, so they made up tales to explain what was happening and performed rituals to save the sun and restore its strength. They were certain that these rituals worked because—sure enough!—the sun then became stronger and stronger and the nights shorter and shorter. They eventually had to repeat this process, but it worked every time." \*

Celebrating the return of the light has been at the root of mid-winter holidays and festivals throughout the ages, and that is still true today. Most of our present-day mix of winter customs and traditions is borrowed from solstice practices of many cultures before us.

Marking the Winter Solstice reminds us of the natural rhythms of the world, and connects us with the long history of this elemental celebration. Try sitting in the darkness for a few minutes. Then light a candle or put the torch to a bonfire. Savor the sense of hope and delight, as relevant now as it has been since ancient times, that the longest night is past and the promise of the sun is returning.

\* (from *Multicultural Holidays: Share Our Celebration* by Julia Jasmine)



High Prairie Full Moon, Mike Mahaffa



Photo: Jocelyn Weeks

## NEW WEBSITE, LIBRARY OF THINGS, BOOKMOBILE, BOOKS BY MAIL, AND WINTER ACTIVITIES

Terra McLeod, Branch Manager, Goldendale Library

The FVRL website and catalog have been upgraded! If you haven't checked it out yet, go to [fvrl.org](http://fvrl.org) and see for yourself. The catalog allows for better searching and reading suggestions based on your current search. It also comes with an app. Just go to your app store and search for [fvrlibraries](http://fvrlibraries.com) to download. You also can add multiple library accounts to the app to better monitor your family's checkouts and holds. Questions? Call the Goldendale Library.

We are also introducing a new collection, a Library of Things, that patrons can check out and pick up at the Goldendale Library or on the Bookmobile. See the collection here: <https://www.fvrl.org/library-of-things/>

Bookmobile service schedules can be adjusted by request for new stops; email [tmcleod@fvrl.org](mailto:tmcleod@fvrl.org) if you would like a stop closer to you. Along with Bookmobile service that covers Central and Eastern Klickitat County, Books By Mail is a service available for anyone who lives more than 10 miles away from a library branch.

Here are some highlights of upcoming programs we hope to see you at (see all Events at [fvrl.org](http://fvrl.org)):

- Winter Open House: Friday Dec. 12, 4:00-6:00pm

Join us as we celebrate winter and the Friends of the Goldendale Library. Enjoy music, refreshments, and create a macrame gnome to decorate your home or gift to a friend.

- Upcycle Makerspace: Saturday Dec. 20, 10:00-2:00pm

Do you have something at home that needs a makeover? From old sweaters to broken pottery, artwork, and more, bring these items and join us for this open makerspace event. Upgrading supplies provided.

- 3D Printer Certification: Saturday Dec. 27, 4:00-5:30pm

- Noon Year's Eve Party!: Wednesday Dec. 31, 10:30-12:30

- Anime Your Way: Friday Jan. 16, 3:30-5:00pm

• Growing Through the Seasons: Garden Planning: Saturday Jan. 24, 10:00-11:30am

- Love, Your Library: Saturday Feb. 14, 10:00-12:00pm

*Drop in wearing your pajamas and enjoy cocoa and pastries while you relax with a short read-aloud featuring books and passages highlighting libraries!*

## ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH PANZANELLA

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/roasted-butternut-squash-panzanella>

Total time: Prep: 25 min. Bake: 45 min

Yield: 8 servings

4 cups cubed sourdough bread

5 Tb. olive oil, divided

1 medium butternut squash, about 3 pounds, peeled and cut into 1" cubes

1/2 tsp each of salt, ground ginger, ground cumin, pepper

1 cup salted shelled pumpkin seeds (pepitas)

1 cup dried cranberries

4 shallots finely chopped (1/2 cup)

Dressing (recipe below)

Preheat oven to 425°.

Place bread cubes in 15x10x1 in. baking pan. Toss with 2 Tb oil and bake 10-15 minutes or until toasted, stirring twice.

Place squash into same pan (reserve bread cubes). Mix seasonings and remaining 3 Tb oil; drizzle over squash and toss to coat. Roast 35-45 min. or until tender and lightly browned, stirring occasionally.

In a large bowl, combine bread cubes, squash, pumpkin seeds, cranberries, and shallots.

Drizzle with this dressing and toss to combine:

1/3 cup red wine vinegar

1/4 cup maple syrup

2 Tb. prepared horseradish

1/2 tsp salt

1/2 tsp pepper

1/4 tsp dried rosemary, crushed

1/4 cup olive oil

In a small saucepan, combine the first six ingredients; heat through, stirring to blend

Remove from heat; gradually whisk in oil until blended.

Then pour 1/2 cup of dressing over the salad and toss to combine.

(Save remaining dressing for another use.)



Lita Colligan, *Daybreak on the Columbia*, 8x10 Pastel on Paper. More work is on display on Instagram @Lita.Colligan Studio.

## WHITE-EYES

Mary Oliver

In winter

all the singing is in  
the tops of the trees  
where the wind-bird

with its white eyes  
shoves and pushes  
among the branches.  
Like any of us

he wants to go to sleep,  
but he's restless—  
he has an idea,  
and slowly it unfolds

from under his beating wings  
as long as he stays awake.  
But his big, round music, after all,  
is too breathy to last.

So, it's over.

In the pine-crown  
he makes his nest,  
he's done all he can.

I don't know the name of this bird,  
I only imagine his glittering beak  
tucked in a white wing  
while the clouds—

which he has summoned  
from the north—  
which he has taught  
to be mild, and silent—

thicken, and begin to fall  
into the world below  
like stars, or the feathers  
of some unimaginable bird

that loves us,  
that is asleep now, and silent—  
that has turned itself  
into snow.

## HOW TO MAKE BIRDSEED ORNAMENTS

Debbie Chapman

<http://onelittleproject.com/birdseed-ornaments/>

- 2.5 cups Birdseed (such as "Outdoor Songbird Mix")
- 2 Packages Unflavored Gelatin (2 Tablespoons total)
- 2 Tablespoons Corn Syrup
- 1 cup Water
- 12 Cookie Cutters
- 3 Drinking Straws, cut into 2" long pieces



1. Add ½ cup cold water to a large bowl.
2. Pour the 2 packages of unflavored gelatin on top of the water.
3. Add ½ cup boiling water to the gelatin mixture and stir until the gelatin is completely dissolved.
4. Add the corn syrup and stir until combined.
5. Add the birdseed and mix well.
6. Place the bowl in the refrigerator for about 10 minutes until the liquid firms up enough that it won't leak out from under the cookie cutters.
7. Set your cookie cutters onto a parchment lined baking sheet and fill them with spoonfuls of the birdseed mixture. Using the back of the spoon, press down the birdseed mixture firmly to fill in all the gaps. Fill the cookie cutters to the top.
8. Press the drinking straws into each of the shapes leaving at least ½" of space between the hole and the edge of the shape.
9. Place the ornaments in the refrigerator overnight.
10. To remove the cookie cutters, gently pull the metal away from the edges on all side then gently push the birdseed ornaments out of the cookie cutters. Gently pull the straws out.
11. Thread a piece of twine through the hole and tie the ends in a knot.
12. Hang the birdseed ornaments from tree branches, leaving room nearby for the birds to perch on while eating.



Photo: Mike Mahaffa, Orion Nebula, M42. 1,330 light years from Earth. High Prairie, Bottle of -3

## WINTER'S SETTIN' IN

David Skiles (Kansas farmer, sawyer, poet)

I hear the sleet on the window pane...  
 Winter's settin' in...  
 The clock just struck at three a.m...  
 And the winter's a settin' in...  
 It'll be a bit... 'fore the sun'll rise again...  
 I checked the weather to see the blow...  
 They say we're in for a pile of snow...  
 Cause th' winter's a settin' in...  
 The fire is lit and burning bright...  
 All the critters are tucked in tonight...  
 The temp is cold with the chillin' wind...  
 For tonight... winter's a settin' in...  
 Guess I'll roll over... tuck my shoulders in...  
 Try to get more sleep 'fore the day begins...  
 When I'll shovel snow an' scatter salt...  
 Cause th' winter's a settin' in...



Photo: Peg Calliendo, Three Birds on Snowy Birdbath